

H.R. 3903. An act to provide for an exchange of lands located near Gustavus, Alaska, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 417) "An Act to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 2002." with an amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. GOODLING. Pursuant to H. Res. 575, I announce the following House Concurrent Resolution to be considered under suspension today:

H. Con. Res. 214, Recognizing Contributions of the Cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, to the Development of Country Music.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CITIES OF BRISTOL, TENNESSEE, AND BRISTOL, VIRGINIA, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 214) recognizing the contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, and their people to the origins and development of Country Music, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 214

Whereas the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, have long been a gathering place for musicians from the nearby mountainous countryside;

Whereas phonographic recordings made in Bristol in August of 1927 launched the careers of the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers, who are recognized as the first commercially successful modern Country Music artists;

Whereas these recordings have been called the "Big Bang of Country Music" by the Country Music Foundation in its publication "Country, the Music and the Musicians";

Whereas Jimmie Rodgers has been named the Father of Country Music and was the first artist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame;

Whereas the original members of the Carter Family have been recognized as Country Music's First Family in part because their works have had an unparalleled influence on succeeding generations of Country Music artists;

Whereas "The Roots of Country Music", a three-part television series which aired nationally on the Turner Broadcasting System in June of 1996, recognized the significant contribution of the cities of Bristol to the development and commercial acceptance of Country Music;

Whereas in 1984 the Tennessee Senate recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music"; and

Whereas in 1995, the Virginia General Assembly recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the critical contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol,

Virginia, and their residents to the origins and development of Country Music;

(2) congratulates the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, for launching with the Bristol recordings of 1927 the careers of the Nation's first widely known Country Music artists; and

(3) acknowledges and commends the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, as the birthplace of Country Music, a style of music which has enjoyed broad commercial success in the United States and throughout much of the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 214.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 214, which designates the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, as the birthplace of country music. General Assembly of Virginia and Tennessee State Senate have previously made this designation. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) take their cue from their respective State legislative bodies and introduced an identical concurrent resolution in the House.

I must admit my age. My two country music stars just died: Gene Autry and Roy Rogers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, let me say thanks to the committee for their consideration of this resolution and for allowing us to consider it here today.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Bristol is two cities: Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia; Bristol, Tennessee, being in the First Congressional District of Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, being in the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia, and represented very ably by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER).

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Mr. Speaker, in the 1920s, when country music was in its infancy, artists from throughout Tennessee and Virginia and the entire region gathered in Bristol to perform. Some of the most important developments in country music took place there.

In 1927, the Carter family, which later became the First Family of Country Music, and Jimmie Rogers, who became the Father of Country Music, had recording sessions there, very significant recording sessions there.

These recordings became known in time by the country music foundation as the "Big Bang of Country Music." They are credited with propelling the Carter family and Jimmie Rogers and country music itself to a commercially successful venture.

Today, country music is enjoyed throughout this country and throughout the world. As the Chairman pointed out, in 1984, the Tennessee Senate recognized Bristol as the birthplace of country music.

Today we have this resolution which recognizes the contributions of Bristol and its people to the origins and the development of country music. This, I think, significantly is cosponsored by the entire delegations from the States of Tennessee and Virginia. I ask support for this well-deserved recognition.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. My colleagues may wonder why a city boy from Los Angeles would be so supportive of country music. But years ago when I worked in a factory, the gentleman next to me was from the south. In fact, he was from Tennessee, and he had a little recorder in there, and that is all he played was country music.

I remember one of the first songs that I was ever attracted to was a song by Johnny Cash, "I Walked The Line." It was very apropos of the way I felt at that time.

I could understand the words. A lot of the other music I could not understand the words. It seemed to me like every piece of country music tells a story, a story of some kind. Sometimes they are too sad. But, regardless, they do tell a story, and they are very interesting to listen to. I like the rhythms in a lot of them.

Of course I remember Jimmie Rogers and I remember Gene Autry and all the people that the Chairman mentioned. But I am more into the kind of modern day country music stars like George Strait, Vince Gill, and a lot of the people that have really brought country music to the front.

But this legislation, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) has said, honors the cities of Bristol, Virginia, and Bristol, Tennessee, giving it much credit for the origin and the development of the country music. I commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) for bringing this measure before the House.

As I said, I am a fan of country music, and I am pleased to speak in favor of this resolution. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER).

(Mr. BOUCHER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for his kind words and for yielding me this time.

I also want to express appreciation to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) for his very fine efforts and the efforts of his staff in bringing this measure to the floor. We very much appreciate his assistance.

I want to pay a special tribute to my friend and colleague from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS), with whom I was pleased to draft this measure, offer it to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and with whom I am pleased to present the matter to the House today.

I am pleased to rise in strong support of the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 214 which recognizes the contributions of the cities of Bristol, Virginia and Tennessee as the birthplace of country music.

This measure is an effort to recognize the many contributions of the two cities of Bristol to the origin of country music. From its beginnings in the mountains of the Southern Appalachians, country music has steadily grown to become the most popular form of music in our Nation today. The two cities of Bristol served as the early foundation for that growth.

Portable recording equipment developed in the late 1920s allowed talent scouts to travel the countryside to capture the performances of country musicians in their natural habitats. Bristol had long been a gathering place for musicians from the nearby mountains.

In August of 1997, a talent scout named Ralph Peer and two engineers from the Victor Records Corporation came to Bristol with the intent of capturing the musical sounds of the area. The phonographic recordings that were made during those historic Bristol sessions launched the careers of the Carter family and also of Jimmie Rogers, who are widely recognized as the first commercially successful country music artists.

The original members of the Carter family have been recognized as country music's first family in part because their works have had an unparalleled influence on succeeding generations of country music artists. Their vocal harmonies served as the basis for almost every vocal group that followed in the ensuing years.

Jimmie Rogers has been named the Father of Country Music. The first artist to be inducted in the Country Music Hall of Fame was Jimmie Rogers.

The recordings made in Bristol in August of 1927 have been called the Big Bang of Country Music by the Country Music Foundation in its publication "Country, the Music and the Musicians." These recordings in Bristol transported country music from the mountains of our region into the national commercial marketplace.

In recent years, the States of Virginia and Tennessee, through their General Assemblies, have both adopted resolutions declaring the two cities of Bristol to be the birthplace of country music. Based upon that historical record today, I am pleased to urge our colleagues in the House of Representatives to append that well-earned designation to these two cities.

I thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS), for his co-authorship of this measure. I thank the entire delegations of Tennessee and Virginia who have co-authored this measure with us. I am very pleased to urge the passage of this resolution by the House.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 214.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2432) to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2432

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Assistive Technology Act of 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions and rule.

TITLE I—STATE GRANT PROGRAMS

- Sec. 101. Continuity grants for States that received funding for a limited period for technology-related assistance.
- Sec. 102. State grants for protection and advocacy related to assistive technology.
- Sec. 103. Administrative provisions.
- Sec. 104. Technical assistance program.
- Sec. 105. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- Sec. 201. Coordination of Federal research efforts.
- Sec. 202. National Council on Disability.
- Sec. 203. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Subtitle B—Other National Activities

- Sec. 211. Small business incentives.

- Sec. 212. Technology transfer and universal design.
- Sec. 213. Universal design in products and the built environment.
- Sec. 214. Outreach.
- Sec. 215. Training pertaining to rehabilitation engineers and technicians.
- Sec. 216. President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities.
- Sec. 217. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—ALTERNATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS

- Sec. 301. General authority.
- Sec. 302. Amount of grants.
- Sec. 303. Applications and procedures.
- Sec. 304. Contracts with community-based organizations.
- Sec. 305. Grant administration requirements.
- Sec. 306. Information and technical assistance.
- Sec. 307. Annual report.
- Sec. 308. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—REPEAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 401. Repeal.
- Sec. 402. Conforming amendments.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to—

- (A) live independently;
- (B) enjoy self-determination and make choices;

- (C) benefit from an education;
- (D) pursue meaningful careers; and
- (E) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society in the United States.

(2) Technology has become 1 of the primary engines for economic activity, education, and innovation in the Nation, and throughout the world. The commitment of the United States to the development and utilization of technology is 1 of the main factors underlying the strength and vibrancy of the economy of the United States.

(3) As technology has come to play an increasingly important role in the lives of all persons in the United States, in the conduct of business, in the functioning of government, in the fostering of communication, in the conduct of commerce, and in the provision of education, its impact upon the lives of the more than 50,000,000 individuals with disabilities in the United States has been comparable to its impact upon the remainder of the citizens of the United States. Any development in mainstream technology would have profound implications for individuals with disabilities in the United States.

(4) Substantial progress has been made in the development of assistive technology devices, including adaptations to existing devices that facilitate activities of daily living, that significantly benefit individuals with disabilities of all ages. Such devices and adaptations increase the involvement of such individuals in, and reduce expenditures associated with, programs and activities such as early intervention, education, rehabilitation and training, employment, residential living, independent living, and recreation programs and activities, and other aspects of daily living.

(5) All States have comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance. Federal support for such programs should continue, strengthening the capacity of each State to assist individuals with disabilities of all ages with their assistive technology needs.